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Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/61/L.70 and Add.1)*]

61/296. Cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations,[1]

Recalling the provisions of Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations, as well as its resolutions 55/218 of 21 December 2000, 56/48 of 7 December 2001, 57/48 of 21 November 2002 and 59/213 of 20 December 2004,

Recalling also the principles enshrined in the Constitutive Act of the African Union adopted at the meeting of the Heads of State and Government of the African Union, held in Lomé from 10 to 12 July 2000,[2]

Recalling further the decisions and declarations adopted by the Assembly of the African Union at all its ordinary and extraordinary sessions, held in Durban, South Africa, on 9 and 10 July 2002,[3] in Maputo from 10 to 12 July 2003,[4] in Addis Ababa from 6 to 8 July 2004,[5] in Abuja on 30 and 31 January 2005,[6] in Sirte, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, on 4 and 5 July 2005,[7] in Khartoum on 23 and 24 January 2006,[8] and in Banjul on 1 and 2 July 2006,[9]

Welcoming the adoption of the African Union Non-Aggression and Common Defence Pact at the fourth ordinary session of the Assembly of the African Union,[6] as an instrument to reinforce cooperation among States members of the African

[1] A/61/256 and Add.1.

[2] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2158, No. 37733.

[3] See A/57/744, annex III.

[4] See A/58/626, annex I.

[5] See African Union, documents Assembly/AU/Dec.33–54 (III) and Assembly/AU/Decl.12 & 13 (III).

[6] See African Union, documents Assembly/AU/Dec.55–72 (IV) and Assembly/AU/Dec.1–2 (IV).

[7] See African Union, documents Assembly/AU/Dec.73–90 (V), Assembly/AU/Dec.1–3 (V) and Assembly/AU/Resolution 1 (V).

[8] See African Union, documents Assembly/AU/Dec. 91–110 (VI), Assembly/AU/Dec.1–3 (VI) and Assembly/AU/Recommendations (VI).

[9] See African Union, documents Assembly/AU/Dec. 111–132 (VII) and Assembly/AU/Decl.1–4 (VII).

Union in the areas of defence and security and that can in particular contribute to the work of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union and its cooperation with the United Nations,

Welcoming also the adoption of the framework for the ten-year capacity-building programme for the African Union set out in the declaration on enhancing United Nations-African Union cooperation, signed in Addis Ababa on 16 November 2006 by the Secretary-General and the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, [10] which highlights the key areas for cooperation between the African Union and the United Nations, namely institution-building, human resources development, youth unemployment, financial management, peace and security issues, political, legal, social, economic, cultural and human development and food security and environmental protection, as an important step to further enhance the level of cooperation between the two organizations,

Acknowledging the decision of the African Union Peace and Security Council at its 68th meeting, held on 14 December 2006, on the establishment of a coordination and consultation mechanism between the African Union Peace and Security Council and the United Nations Security Council, taking note of discussions between the United Nations Security Council and the African Union Peace and Security Council held in June 2007, and welcoming the agreement to hold joint meetings at least once a year,[11]

Welcoming, while taking into account the role of the General Assembly, the statements by the President of the Security Council of 19 November 2004 on the institutional relationship with the African Union[12] and of 28 March 2007 on the relationship between the United Nations and regional organizations, in particular the African Union, in the maintenance of international peace and security, [13]

Bearing in mind the United Nations Declaration on the New Partnership for Africa's Development, contained in its resolution 57/2 of 16 September 2002, and its resolutions 57/7 of 4 November 2002, 58/233 of 23 December 2003, 59/254 of 23 December 2004, 60/222 of 23 December 2005 and 61/229 of 22 December 2006 on the New Partnership,

Stressing the urgent need to address the plight of refugees and internally displaced persons in Africa,

Stressing also the need for extending the scope of cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union in the area of combating illegal exploitation of natural resources in Africa,

Emphasizing the importance of the effective, coordinated and integrated implementation of the United Nations Millennium Declaration, [14] the Doha Development Agenda,[15] the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development,[16] the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit

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[10] A/61/630, annex.

[11] See S/2007/386, annex.

[12] S/PRST/2004/44; see *Resolutions and Decisions of the Security Council, 1 August 2004–31 July 2005.*

[13] S/PRST/2007/7; see *Resolutions and Decisions of the Security Council, 1 August 2006–31 July 2007.*

[14] See resolution 55/2.

[15] See A/C.2/56/7, annex.

[16] *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18–22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation")[17] and the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[18]

Welcoming the efforts to enhance cooperation within the framework of a partnership between the peace and security structures of the United Nations and the African Union in the realm of conflict prevention and resolution, crisis management, peacekeeping and post-conflict peacebuilding in Africa,

Acknowledging the significant contribution of the 1999 Algiers Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism, and noting the centrality of international partnership and cooperation between the African Union, the relevant United Nations organs and the wider international community in the global fight against terrorism,

Acknowledging also the contribution of the United Nations Liaison Office in strengthening coordination and cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union, as well as the need to consolidate it so as to enhance its performance,

Convinced that strengthening cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union will contribute to the advancement of the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, the principles of the Constitutive Act of the African Union and the development of Africa,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General;[1]

2. *Stresses* the need for closer cooperation and coordination between the United Nations system and the African Union, in accordance with the Cooperation Agreement as well as other relevant memorandums of understanding between the two organizations, particularly in the implementation of the commitments contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration[14] and the 2005 World Summit Outcome[18] and as regards achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, at the national, subregional and regional levels;

3. *Invites* the Secretary-General to request all relevant United Nations agencies, funds and programmes to intensify their efforts to support cooperation with the African Union, including through the implementation of the protocols to the Constitutive Act of the African Union[2] and the Treaty establishing the African Economic Community,[19] and to assist in harmonizing the programmes of the African Union with those of the African regional economic communities with a view to enhancing regional economic cooperation and integration;

4. *Also invites* the Secretary-General to request the United Nations system to enhance its support for the Commission of the African Union in the implementation of its Strategic Plan (2004–2007);

5. *Requests* the United Nations system, while acknowledging its primary role in the promotion and maintenance of international peace and security, to intensify its assistance to the African Union, as appropriate, in strengthening the

[17] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

[18] See resolution 60/1.

[19] A/46/651, annex.

institutional and operational capacity of its Peace and Security Council and in coordinating with other international partners when needed, in particular in the following areas:

(*a*) Development of its early warning system, including the Situation Room of the Peace and Security Directorate;

(*b*) Training of civilian and military personnel, including a staff exchange programme;

(*c*) Regular and continued exchange and coordination of information, including between the early warning systems and mediation mechanisms of the two organizations;

(*d*) Peace support missions of the African Union in its various member States, in particular in the area of communication and other related logistical support;

(*e*) Capacity-building for peacebuilding before and after the cessation of hostilities on the continent;

(*f*) Support for the Peace and Security Council in taking humanitarian action on the continent in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the Protocol relating to the Establishment of the Peace and Security Council;

(*g*) The full establishment of the African standby force and the military staff committee;

(*h*) Enhancement of the institutional capacity of regional peace support training centres for States members of the African Union;

(*i*) Cooperation between the United Nations Security Council and the African Union Peace and Security Council;

6. *Calls upon* the United Nations system to support the African Union and its member States in their efforts to implement the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;

7. *Calls for* the implementation of the declaration on enhancing United Nations-African Union cooperation: framework for the ten-year capacity-building programme for the African Union,[10] and in this regard, requests the Secretary-General to take appropriate measures to strengthen the capacity of the United Nations Secretariat and to implement its mandate with respect to meeting the special needs of Africa;

8. *Recognizes* the need for sustainable and predictable financing and operational and logistical support for African Union peacekeeping operations and the crucial role the United Nations has to play with the international community to work towards a solution quickly, and to that end urges the United Nations to encourage donor countries, in consultation with the African Union, to contribute to adequate funding, training and logistical support for African countries in their efforts to enhance their peacekeeping capabilities, with a view to enabling those countries to participate actively in peacekeeping operations within the framework of the Protocol relating to the Establishment of the Peace and Security Council and the framework of the United Nations, and looks forward to the report of the Secretary-General on these issues;

9. *Stresses* the urgent need for the United Nations and the African Union to develop close cooperation and concrete programmes aimed at addressing the

problems posed by illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons and anti-personnel mines, within the framework of the relevant declarations and resolutions adopted by the two organizations;

10. *Calls upon* the United Nations system, the African Union and the international community to intensify their cooperation in the global fight against terrorism through the implementation of the relevant international and regional treaties and protocols and, in particular, the African Plan of Action adopted in Algiers on 14 September 2002, as well as their support for the operation of the African Centre for Studies and Research on Terrorism, inaugurated in Algiers in October 2004;

11. *Calls upon* the United Nations system to intensify its efforts, in collaboration with the African Union, in combating illegal exploitation of natural resources, particularly in conflict areas, in accordance with relevant resolutions and decisions of the United Nations and the African Union;

12. *Encourages* the United Nations system to effectively support the efforts of the African Union by urging the international community to strive for the successful and timely completion of the Doha round of trade negotiations, including negotiations aimed at substantial improvements in areas such as trade-related measures, including market access and regional economic integration, to promote sustainable growth in Africa;

13. *Invites* the United Nations system to enhance its support for African countries in their efforts to implement the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation;[17]

14. *Encourages* the United Nations to take special measures to address the challenges of poverty eradication through debt cancellation, enhanced official development assistance, increases in flows of foreign direct investment and transfers of affordable and appropriate technology;

15. *Calls upon* the United Nations system to accelerate the implementation of the Plan of Action contained in the document entitled "A world fit for children", adopted on 10 May 2002 at the special session of the General Assembly on children,[20] and to provide assistance, as appropriate, to the African Union and its member States in this regard;

16. *Calls upon* the United Nations system and the African Union to develop a coherent and effective strategy, including through joint programmes and activities, for the promotion and protection of human rights in Africa, within the framework of the implementation of regional and international treaties, resolutions and plans of action adopted by the two organizations;

17. *Urges* the United Nations system to increase its support for Africa in the implementation of the declaration of the extraordinary summit meeting of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity on HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and other related infectious diseases, held in Abuja in April 2001,[21] and the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS[22] so as to arrest the spread of these diseases, inter alia, through sound capacity-building in human resources;

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[20] See resolution S-27/2.

[21] Organization of African Unity, document OAU/SPS/ABUJA/3.

[22] Resolution S-26/2, annex.

18. *Also urges* the United Nations system to continue to implement resolution 58/149 of 22 December 2003 on assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa, and effectively to support African countries in their effort to incorporate the problems of refugees into national and regional development plans;

19. *Requests* the United Nations system to cooperate with the African Union and its member States in the implementation of appropriate policies for the promotion of the culture of democracy, good governance, respect for human rights and the rule of law, and the strengthening of democratic institutions which will enhance the popular participation of the peoples of the continent in these issues, in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Constitutive Act of the African Union and the New Partnership for Africa's Development;[23]

20. *Urges* the Secretary-General to encourage the United Nations system to work towards ensuring the effective and equitable representation of African men and women at senior and policy levels at the respective headquarters of its organizations and in their regional fields of operation;

21. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General and the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, working in collaboration, to review every two years the progress made in the cooperation between the two organizations, and requests the Secretary-General to include the results of the review in his next report;

22. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-third session on the implementation of the present resolution.

109th plenary meeting
17 September 2007

[23] A/57/304, annex.